

COCONINO COUNTY LOCAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT AREA

Geography

Coconino County was joined in 1993 to Kane County, Utah and together deemed the Flagstaff Metropolitan Statistical Area by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget. It thereby became Arizona's fourth MSA, following Phoenix, Tucson, and Yuma. Commuting patterns and achievement of a required minimum population size as determined from the 1990 Census enabled it to be so designated.

We will herein confine the report to Coconino County proper, or where possible, Coconino County less the Indian reservations, the actual jurisdiction of the WIA Local Workforce Investment Area (LWIA).

Population

According to the most recent official population figures, produced by US Census Bureau, mid-year estimates for 2000 show 116,320 people reside in Coconino County. This resident population accounts for 2.3 percent of state of Arizona's total population. In the ten years since the 1990 census, Coconino County's population grew by 20.4 percent, or roughly 2 percent annually compared to the state as a whole which grew over 40 percent for the decade. Flagstaff is the largest city in the county, with an estimated population of 52,834. Page is the next largest, with an estimated population of 6,809.

Income

According to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis from 1990 to 1999, local total personal income in Coconino County increased about 79 percent compared to the State's nearly 90 percent. However, on a per capita basis, the gain of 52 percent was greater than the State's growth of 46 percent. Coconino County per capita income was \$21,297 in 1999, about 84.6 percent of the state average, up from 81.6 percent in 1990. Average earnings per job increased 2.9 percent in 1999 to \$25,533 – slightly less than the gain for the state at 4.1 percent.

Labor Force

The Coconino County labor force rose roughly 0.4 percent each year from 1995 to 2000. Coconino County employment figures grew at an average annual pace of 0.9 percent. This affected the unemployment rate downward from 7.8 percent in 1995 to 5.7 percent in 2000.

Employment

Total nonfarm employment in Coconino County averaged 4.0 percent average yearly growth from 1995-2000. The largest growth occurred in the services industry, which had average growth of 6.2 percent for the period. Government,

Coconino's biggest industry with 19,950 workers, registered impressive gains at 5.6 percent. Mining and Transportation (TCPU) groups lost employment at 4.0 and 1.3 percent respectively. Services and trade are Coconino's second and third largest industries, respectively, and they measured gains of 6.7 and 3.4 percent each.

Growing and Declining

During the year 2000 the largest industry job growth was experienced in hospitals (+992 jobs), misc. amusement and recreation services (+568 jobs), and heavy construction, except highway (+502 jobs). The largest employment losses appeared in hotels and motels (-317 jobs), passenger transportation arrangement (-231 jobs), and retail stores, N.E.C. (-93 jobs). For further details see the enclosed tables.

Forecast

Research Administration is forecasting employment to grow 1.1 percent in PY 01-02 and another 2.6 percent in PY 02-03. Countywide unemployment is expected to decrease slightly from the PY 00-01 rate of 5.6 percent to 5.4 percent in PY 01-02 and then to 5.3 percent in PY 02-03. Unemployment in the non-reservation areas is expected to drop from the PY 00-01 rate of 4.1 percent to 4.0 percent in PY 01-02 and then to 3.9 percent in PY 02-03.

Issues of Concern

- Mining and quarrying remains stagnant

Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security, Research Administration, November 2001.